

SOUTHERN SUDAN



Southern Sudan is composed of more than 200 ethnic groups speaking languages found primarily within Southern Sudan with other languages from neighboring Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Congo, Northern Sudan (Khartoum) and more. The official language is both English and Juba-Arabic, along with various local languages in states or cities. It is widely agreed that the largest ethnic group in Southern Sudan is Dinka, followed by Nuer then by Shilluk. Other ethnic communities in Southern Sudan are Acholi, Murle, Bari, Nubian, Kuku, Funj, Maban, Zandi, Oduk, and more. Southern Sudanese practice traditional beliefs and Christianity. Christianity accounts for almost 50% of the religion of Southern Sudan, mostly Catholic and Anglican, while other smaller denominations also are active. Aside from the Interim National Constitution of the Republic of Sudan^[7], the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan of 2005 is the supreme law^[8] of Southern Sudan. The Constitution establishes an Executive Branch headed by a President who is both the Head of State, Head of Government, and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. John Garang, the founder of the SPLA/M was the first President until his death on 30 July 2005. Salva Kiir Mayardit, his deputy, was sworn in as First Vice President of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan on 11 August 2005. Riek Machar replaced him as Vice-President. Legislative power is vested in the government and the unicameral Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly. The Constitution also provides for an independent judiciary, the highest organ being the Supreme Court.

FOREIGN RELATIONS:

U.S.-SOUTHERN SUDANESE RELATIONS: The effects of conflict and insecurity continue to reverberate as Sudan approaches its first national elections since 2000. Since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) officially ended the North-South civil war, nearly 2 million displaced people have returned to their communities in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei). But the lack of basic infrastructure and institutional capacity impedes economic and social progress. At the same time, more than 2.7 million people have been driven from their homes in Darfur, where, despite the signing of a peace agreement in 2006, conflict and insecurity persist, reducing humanitarian access. The U.S. Government is the leading international donor to Sudan, providing more than \$6 billion in assistance since 2005. As part of the United States' commitment to support the peace process, save lives, and safeguard human rights, USAID programs promote stability, recovery, and democratic reform and provide basic health and education services to the Sudanese people.

Peace and Security: USAID promotes the emergence of an active, empowered civil society that monitors the progress of peace accords and advocates for change. USAID promotes improved access to independent information and strengthens the capacity of local government to address the root causes of conflict along Sudan's contested North-South border. In Darfur, USAID supports to civil society and community organizations in early recovery and peace building activities.

Governing Justly and Democratically: In Southern Sudan and the Three Areas, USAID is supporting democratic governance and assisting the CPA's key political processes. Activities work to strengthen the core institutions of the Government of Southern Sudan and develop systems to meet citizen needs and government priorities at the regional and state levels. This assistance also targets the fragile Three Areas in order to enhance local governments' ability to transparently manage resources, deliver tangible peace dividends, and increase incomes. USAID also supports implementation of key CPA milestones--the 2008 census, the national elections (now scheduled for April 2010), popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan, and the 2011 referenda on the future status of Southern Sudan and Abyei. In support of these goals, USAID is assisting the administration of these processes, promoting civic participation and consensus building, and supporting international observation.

Investing in People: USAID health and education programs focus on delivering peace dividends to the people of Sudan. USAID programs strengthen maternal and child health services and reduce the burden of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases. Access to health services is increased by training county medical officers and conducting national immunization days and polio eradication campaigns. To improve education, USAID rehabilitates schools, trains teachers, and mobilizes parent-teacher associations to increase Sudan's capacity to provide quality primary and secondary education, especially for girls.

Focus on Performance:

Economic Growth: USAID activities link isolated communities and facilitate an enabling environment for market development, through improvement of roads, assistance in electrification, agricultural support, bolstering of private sector competitiveness, support for improved land policies, and promotion of better environmental management of the Boma–Jonglei landscape and its rich biodiversity.